

Greetings. I'm Jacqueline Ziegler, and I'm a Unitarian Universal minister. I'm a concerned citizen, and I'm affiliated also with the Sierra Club. I address the socioeconomic impact of any change to the federal coal leasing program. The federal coal leasing program is responsible for enormous amounts of carbon pollution that feeds climate change which is threatening the environment and the quality of existence of all life on this beautiful, blue-green plant Earth, our home. As we have heard and seen already, western communities and elsewhere in the world are already experiencing increased severe weather including droughts and reduced snow pack. Scientists whose concern is the quality of all life on Earth now and for future generations lift up, tell us to prevent truly catastrophic climate change, we must mine and burn less coal and we need to immediately begin an orderly transition -- emphasis on transition -- away from using coal and, I must say, other fossil fuels. Any transition to a future that uses clean energy must include strong support for workers and families who are most affected by the downturn in coal production here in Wyoming. A reformed coal leasing program must include investments to future or support workers' transitions to different economic opportunities, different careers. Royalties from future mining should be tied to job training and other support programs for workers so that we can ensure a fair and just transition away from the fossil fuels. A fair and just transition to people means affected workers, their unions, and communities, our equal partners in a well-planned, carefully negotiated and managed transition from fossil fuels to clean energy. A just transition brings good-paying job opportunities for those traditionally left behind, and it will help the entire State of Wyoming diversify its economy for a more stable economic future. Workers' pensions, health benefits must be preserved for residents of affected communities, who should see the right of first employment for any jobs that are created by plant decommissioning or site reclamation. Workers must be provided education and training for industries and with similar pay and benefits. People, I know it won't be easy, but by working together, we can make this transition possible. All across our nation, environmentalists, unions, workers, and religious people are coming together to advocate for investments to support a just transition and policies that keep workers, coal workers in

particular, from being left behind. I am optimistic that a transition can happen that will provide for people who lose their livelihoods related to transitions away from coal mining and the burning of fuel. I invite you to read House Bill 4456 called the reclamation or Reclaim Act sponsored by West Virginia state -- House Representative "Hal" Rogers, and it will give you information about moneys and programs available to help you.